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Science Notes - National Institute of Health Offers Newsletter

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SCIENCE NOTES

National Institute of Health Offers Newsletter

The National Institute of Science publishes a newsletter reporting recent research conducted or supported by the National Institute of Health. The Fall 1991 issue, for example, contains four articles, including one titled "Gene Engineered Bacterial Toxin Kills AIDS-Infected Cells in Laboratory Tests."

This article describes a recent experiment in which diphtheria toxin was genetically engineered to attack only cells that have produced the interleukin-2 (IL-2) receptor. This receptor molecule is produced only by cells which are infected by HIV. This evidence suggests that similar toxins could prove therapeutically beneficial to persons with AIDS by reducing the viral replication and the total amount of virus in the body.

A second article reports that the gene for Fragile X Syndrome, the most common form of inherited mental retardation, has been pinpointed. According to the article, this discovery will shed light on some key questions relating to inheritance and the structural abnormality of the gene.

To be placed on the *Science Sentinel* mailing list, contact Betty Riley, Building 31, Room 2B19, National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892; ph: (301) 496-8855.

—J.M.H.

Review: *Out of the Ozone*

David Davis has successfully used slides to develop a video titled "Out of the Ozone" which is appropriate for secondary chemistry and earth science students. The video reviews the development of the ozone problem and the theories about it. "Out of the Ozone" also helps students by identifying many factors promoting ozone depletion.

Missing, however, are diagrams of the chemical structures and atmospheric reactions of ozone which could have increased student understanding. The video also omits much of the data necessary to permit student analysis of the issues, analysis that could lead inductively to decisions regarding appropriate action. Instead, Davis offers his own conclusions and recommendations.

—C.W.B.

Review: *Earth*

Kalmbach Publishing Co., the publisher of *Astronomy* magazine, has released the first issues of its new publication, *Earth*. This company has established a solid reputation for publishing the popular journal *Astronomy*. While the new publication is directed toward a general audience, its level of coverage and breadth of topics will make it a useful resource for earth-science teachers. The price is currently \$14.95 per year for a bi-monthly subscription. Contact Earth Magazine, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-9960.

—D.H.